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Dr. N. E. Hansen, State College, Brookings, South Dakota, returned October 19, 1934 from a four months tour to Soviet Russia. His son, Carl A. Hansen, Brookings, South Dakota, accompanied him as Technical Assistant. The tour was made at the invitation of the Soviet government through the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences at Leningrad. The tour extended as far east as Shilka, on the north branch of the East Siberian railway, at the headwaters of the Amur river.

Program for 1935: By special request a plan or program of work for the agricultural experiment stations is to be prepared and sent back for use next spring and succeeding years in the Soviet Union. A comparative survey of the work in fruit-breeding and agricultural exploration in both countries will make possible more rapid progress at this time.

Dr. Hansen has made a total of eight tours of agricultural exploration including, Europe, Asia, and north Africa, and twelve tours to western Canada.

The seeds and plants collected upon this seventh tour of agricultural exploration to Russia will be propagated as rapidly as possible for distribution, and announced in the spring list of Northern Plant Novelties, usually published in January of each year. The following is a partial list of plants and seeds collected:

1. A Siberian apricot which is another species from the one brought by Dr. Hansen from Manchuria in 1924. This makes possible a new race, hardy in all parts of the prairie northwest.
2. The Siberian form of the Crested Wheat Grass which was first brought to America by Dr. Hansen in his 1897-8 tour from the Volga river region and is now recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as the best grass for the western plains.
3. Soy beans from their northern limit in the Amur river region.
4. Many new Russian and Siberian apples, plums, pears and cherries, including a red cherry from the Ural mountains.
5. Seeds of new Proso grain millets from Afghanistan.
6. Seed of the native grass from which Soviet Russia is developing a perennial wheat.
7. Seed of new frost-resistant and blight-resistant potatoes from South America, from which Russia is breeding an entirely new type of potatoes strongly resistant to frost and completely immune to the late blight which frequently destroys the potato crop. It was late blight which caused the potato famine in Ireland many years ago.
8. Two native rubber plants from Central Asia which are now being cultivated on a large scale. This work is still in the experimental stage.
9. The Chinese elm is of great importance because it is completely immune to Dutch elm disease which is devastating the elms of Europe and the eastern United States. Many of the Chinese elms introduced so far have come from too far south. The present is the most northern importation made.
10. Many other seeds were collected, including some choice wild flowers and the East Siberian wild peony.

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and probably because there was no ecclesiastical organization in the city, and because the Emperor Diocletian had issued his famous edict in 303 AD against Christians, separating church and state. The Bishopric was the result of the general acceptance of Christianity, and the first Bishop of Milan was appointed by the Emperor Constantine in 313 AD. The Bishopric was established to administer spiritual affairs, and the individual who so qualified probably had only the highest clerical rank.

As far back as the beginning of the 2nd century, under the reign of Septimius Severus, there was a local church at the portuguese town of Braga, which was the capital of the ancient Brigetium tribe, situated near the present village of Amieira, which is about 10 miles from the modern town. It is said that the church was founded by the Emperor Severus, and that it was the first Christian church in Portugal.

The following quotations from the Latin Vulgate Bible, and from the Portuguese translation, show the early history of the church in Portugal:

"In the year of our Lord 313, the Emperor Constantine the Great, and the whole world, having been converted to the true religion, issued an edict throughout the empire, commanding all Christians to be baptized, and to renounce their former sins, and to offer up their bodies to the service of God." (Matthew 28:19)

"And as you travel over land and sea, bearing witness of Christ, do not be afraid of your enemies; for they are less than devils, and greater than devils are they not? For greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

"Behold, I send unto you spirit, and the spirit shall go forth, and ye shall be given power over all flesh; and ye shall stand against the house of Israel, and ye shall prevail over them. And I will give unto you a rod of iron, and ye shall break upon the heads of the Gentiles; and ye shall break them in pieces; and ye shall dash them to the ground, and ye shall tread them under foot, and ye shall know that I am in you." (Revelation 12:10)

"And when Jesus had spoken these words, he went out of Galilee, and came into the country of Judea beyond Jordan; and there he found Philip, and said unto him, Follow me." (John 1:43)

"And he said unto him, Come thou also. And he said, Master, we have heard by report that thou art a teacher coming from God; and we would see thy face." (John 1:37)

"And Jesus said unto him, Come thou after me; and I will shew thee great things concerning the kingdom of God. And he said unto him, I will follow thee; but let me first say farewell to my father and mother." (Mark 1:20-21)

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

"And Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt follow me, thou must leave thy father and mother, and thy wife, and thy children, and thy lands, and follow me." (Matthew 19:29)

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A Search for Hardy Apricots

The hardy apricots of the world are to be found in North Manchuria and East Siberia. The following is from my Spring List issued by the Department of Horticulture, State College, Brookings, South Dakota, March 24, 1934:

Manchu Apricot, Nos. 1-23

Offered for the first time. In my 1924 tour to north Manchuria, home of the old Manchu conquerors of China, I became interested in the apricots native of the region between Harbin, on the Siberian railway, and the Amur River. This section of China comes up like a wedge into eastern Siberia and is cut through by the Siberian railway. The conditions are really those of east Siberia on either side with minimum temperature of about 47 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. I saved seed from many fruits and now have 32 seedlings. All of these are of excellent quality. The size varies more or less and there is no good chance to determine the relative superiority as the seedlings were planted very closely in the row. They are offered herewith for preliminary trial as Manchu Nos. 1--23 inclusive. So far, 23 out of the 32 seedlings have been budded. The trees are a beautiful sight in bloom. The large flowers, white with distinct pink tinge, appear early before the leaves. The fruit is yellow, somewhat smaller than the apricots of commerce, and makes delicious preserves.

Announcement December 15, 1934

There will be no trees of the Manchu apricots available for Spring 1935. There were no plum seedlings available for budding in 1933 and 1934. The original Manchu apricot trees are still flourishing but scions are not usually acceptable to amateurs. The scions of all new fruit trees is one dollar per foot as far as available.

I returned October 19, 1934 from my seventh tour of agricultural exploration to Russia. This tour was made at the invitation of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences at Leningrad. Many new seeds and plants were collected.

East Siberian Apricots

It will interest you to know that on this 1934 tour I found another species of apricot in East Siberia which will be still hardier than the Manchu and will also be propagated as rapidly as possible. A lot of good plum pits were picked this year so we hope to have seedlings for budding this year and next year.

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